

Sinclair Broadcast Group's recent actions have illustrated the dangers to localism caused by media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

One of the greatest things about the United States is that it is a free country. If what we watch on the television and radio is controlled by a few, then this country becomes just like a dictatorship, where everything is censored. If this happens, then the United States will become just like what the soldiers in Iraq are fighting against. Thank you.